

Confidential Update on Coutts Border Situation 09:00 hrs February 12, 2022

New Information appears in red font

JSG intel appears in Italics

Current Status

The events below are what is known at the time of reporting, but the situation remains fluid.

Canada-US Border

Coutts

As of 13:00 hrs, February 11, RCMP reported that Coutts remains blocked.

As of 9:00 hrs, February 11, RCMP. Farm tractors at the site have escalated by moving into the ditches effectively blocking all traffic movement.

As of 17:00 hrs, February 10, RCMP and Sheriff Highway Patrol reported that blockade participants indicated they would no longer allow cattle trucks through.

As of 13:00 hrs, February 10, RCMP report:

- *Highway 4 remained blocked at the Coutts protest site.*
- *Traffic being stopped at checkpoints at Coutts and Milk River.*
- *The mood remains stable. RCMP continue to engage identified leadership group. RCMP will continue enforcement in the area where violations are visible.*

As of 13:00 hrs, February 10, JSG reported that Sheriff's resources continue to be engaged to ensure checkpoints north of the Carway and Del Bonita border crossings are active while the ports are open.

As of 13:00 hrs, February 10, JSG communicated that CP Rail has not experienced any disruption to train traffic.

On February 10, the department has confirmed that there continue to be no crossing delays at other ports.

Milk River Blockade at Highway 4 and 501S/501N Intersections

- *As of 13:00 hrs, February 11, RCMP reported that traffic remains stopped by police to keep traffic from reaching Coutts. There were approximately 260 vehicles (passenger, RV, commercial, and tractor) at the site.*
- *As of 11:00 hrs, February 11, Region reported there were no protesters at the Hwy 4 and 501N intersection, but the RCMP checkpoint is still in effect. At the Hwy 4 and 501S intersection a number of protesters still remain and looks to be there for the time being (campers, shelters, bbq/eating area, etc.). The RCMP/JSG checkpoint is still in effect allowing only those local residents or other authorized personnel through to the south.*
- *The airspace restrictions above Milk River, AB and above Coutts, AB has been extended until February 16, 2022 (confirmed).*

- A RCMP/JSG checkpoints remain set up at the southern entrance to the Town of Milk River, which is the Highway 4 and 501N intersection and at Highway 4 and 501S intersection (confirmed).
- RCMP requested speed limit reductions remain in force on Highway 4 at Milk River. Speeds have been changed to 80km/h then 50km/h as drivers approach the blockade.

CBSA and Reported Border Crossing Hours of Operation:

Notes:

- Port Directors (CBSA and USCBP) and RCMP maintain communications to assess border volumes.
 - CBSA and USCBP continue to indicate they are prepared to adjust hours of operation at border crossings if needed.

Border Crossing	Status	Hours	Notes
Coutts AB /Sweetgrass MT	Open	Canada: 24 hours / 7 days a week US: 24 hours / 7 days a week	Traffic is still impeded south of Milk River at Highway 4 and 501, which is about 20 km north of Coutts.
Carway AB/Piegan MT	Open	Canada: 8 am – 6 pm / 7 days a week US: 8 am – 6 pm / 7 days a week	Normal hours of operation. Department has confirmed with CBSA and USCBP that ports at Carway/Piegan MT will maintain their hours of operation. Sheriffs continue to ensure a checkpoint north of Carway is active while the port is open.
Del Bonita AB/Del Bonita MT	Open	Canada: 9 am – 5 pm (Monday to Friday) (Extended to Weekend) US: 9 am – 5 pm (Monday to Friday) (Extended to Weekend)	The Department has confirmed CBSA and USCBP will operate Del Bonita this weekend from 09:00 – 17:00 hours. Sheriffs continue to ensure a checkpoint north of Del Bonita is active while the port is open. Port hours will be assessed by USCBP and CBSA each day in order to react to blockades and volumes.

- Note: There are other land border crossings in the province (6 in total); however, only certain ports are making adjustments to accommodate the situation.
 - Some traffic may choose to divert to another crossing.
 - RCMP and CBSA are now advising Aden/Whitlash is an additional alternate crossing.
 - Trucking companies should continue to check with the CBSA/USCBP on particular load requirements.
 - Some transportation companies are rerouting to the Roosville MT/Grasmere BC port:

- The CBSA hours of operation for commercial carriers are Monday to Friday, 8:30 – 16:30; for passenger vehicle travelers it is 24 hours / 7 days a week.
- US CBP hours of operation for this port are 24 hours / 7 days a week for commercial carriers and passenger vehicle travelers.
 - This port has no capacity to perform livestock inspections.
 - Boxed meat is being accepted, however carriers have to route to Sweetgrass for inspection.

US Customs for Agricultural Products (e.g. boxed meat) and livestock alternative routes for crossing:

- CBSA has confirmed that USCBP will facilitate clearance of livestock at any port into the US but the carrier will have to divert to a location that has a USDA and vet services.
 - It is expected that most Alberta livestock will cross at Del Bonita due to its closeness to Sweetgrass.
- CBSA has confirmed that boxed meat can cross into the US at any port of entry in Idaho and Montana however, carriers will have to route to Sweetgrass for inspection.
- Regway, SK/Raymond, MT
 - Livestock can cross at Raymond if the carrier makes arrangements with the US Veterinarian (this is standard business protocols).
 - Boxed meat is being accepted at this location, however carriers will have to route to Sweetgrass for inspection.
 - Open 6 am – 10 pm, 7 days/week
- Alberta Cattle Feeders Association has requested an exemption from Transport Canada to the Hours of Service Regulation to accommodate carriers that are moving products through alternate ports. Transport Canada is prioritizing the request.

Traffic Count Data

COUTTS – DAILY TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES (ON HIGHWAY 4, 3 KM NORTH OF COUTTS) NOTE: DUE TO LOCATION OF TRAFFIC COUNTER IN RELATION TO PROTESTS, THESE VOLUMES DO NOT REFLECT TRAFFIC CROSSING THE BORDER	Two-Way	Southbound	Northbound
Average Weekday Traffic in January 2022	1,510	820	690
Monday, January 31, 2022	Blockade	Blockade	Blockade
Tuesday, February 1, 2022	Blockade	Blockade	Blockade
Wednesday, February 2, 2022	Blockade	Blockade	Blockade
Thursday, February 3, 2022	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow
Friday, February 4, 2022	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow
Saturday, February 5, 2022	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow

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Sunday, February 6, 2022	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow
Monday, February 7, 2022	Traffic flow with RCMP escort	Traffic flow with RCMP escort	Traffic flow
Tuesday, February 8, 2022	Traffic flow with RCMP escort	Traffic flow with RCMP escort	Traffic flow
Wednesday, February 9, 2022	Blockade	Blockade	Blockade
Thursday, February 10, 2022	Blockade	Blockade	Blockade
Friday, February 11, 2022	Blockade	Blockade	Blockade

DEL BONITA – DAILY TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES (ON HIGHWAY 62, 1 KM NORTH OF US BORDER)	Two-Way	Southbound	Northbound
Average Weekday Traffic in January 2022	50	25	25
Monday, January 31, 2022	300	170	130
Tuesday, February 1, 2022	350	200	150
Wednesday, February 2, 2022	400	250	150
Thursday, February 3, 2022	350	180	170
Friday, February 4, 2022	370	230	140
Saturday, February 5, 2022	Port Closed	Port Closed	Port Closed
Sunday, February 6, 2022	Port Closed	Port Closed	Port Closed
Monday, February 7, 2022	210	135	75
Tuesday, February 8, 2022	325	235	90
Wednesday, February 9, 2022	620	335	285
Thursday, February 10, 2022	675	305	370
Friday, February 11, 2022	650	325	325

CARWAY – DAILY TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES (ON HIGHWAY 2, 2.3 KM NORTH OF US BORDER)	Two-Way	Southbound	Northbound
Average Weekday Traffic in January 2022	80	40	40
Monday, January 31, 2022	240	120	120
Tuesday, February 1, 2022	230	100	130
Wednesday, February 2, 2022	240	130	110
Thursday, February 3, 2022	260	140	120
Friday, February 4, 2022	250	140	110
Saturday, February 5, 2022	320	220	100
Sunday, February 6, 2022	275	160	115
Monday, February 7, 2022	265	140	125
Tuesday, February 8, 2022	185	110	75
Wednesday, February 9, 2022	220	125	95
Thursday, February 10, 2022	260	140	120
Friday, February 11, 2022	295	185	110

City of Edmonton and Surrounding Provincial Highway Network Area

- Effective at 10:00 hrs, February 12, the Provincial Operations Centre (POC) is elevating from a Level I to a Level II in response to Canada Freedom Convoy Solidarity Activity. This elevation is in support of the City of Edmonton. The City of Edmonton will be elevating their EOC to a level II on February 12 between approximately 10:00 hrs and 20:00 hrs.
 - Transportation and Jobs, Economy and Innovation are supporting and will provide additional information as required.
- At 10:00 hrs, February 12, Sheriff operations will close roadways at:
 - 107 Street at 99 Avenue
 - 96 Avenue at 106 Street
 - Fortway Road at River Valley Road
- These road closures will be in place for February 12; however, sheriff operations will assess if closures are needed on February 13, based on traffic and pedestrian traffic.
- *On February 10, JSG reports organizers have posted plans for convoys from Ponoka and Wetaskiwin to the Legislature for February 12.*

City of Calgary and Surrounding Provincial Highway Network Area

- No known activity.

Calls to Action on Social Media and Planned Protest Activity

As of 18:00 hrs, February 6, JSG forecasts that while, “opportunistic pop-up slow-roll activities may occur throughout the province, such activities are likely to be small and short-lived.”

Southern Region

February 12:

No activity reported.

February 11:

- *At 12:15 hrs, February 11, JSG reported that social media posts have called for a “solidarity protest” to be held in Montana near the Coutts/Sweetgrass border crossing from 14:00 hrs, February 11 to 17:00 hrs, February 13. Posts do not indicate an intent to blockade the highway in Montana, but appear to aim to build a party atmosphere to express support for the Canadian blockade participants. JSG reports very low uptake from potential participants.*
- *On February 10, JSG reiterated that an organizer is attempting to gather 1,000 horseback protesters to Coutts for weekend of February 12-13 by ‘Walsh, AB Freedom Riders’ group.*
- *On February 10, JSG reported an organizer has announced a convoy from Ponoka to Coutts on February 12.*

Central Region

February 12:

No activity reported.

Peace Region

February 12:

No activity reported.

February 11:

- Department ADMs have provided their direct contact details to their NWT counterparts in the event something develops regarding the potential blockade in NWT.
- On February 9, the DM from NWT contacted Alberta Transportation DM indicating they have heard chatter over truckers’ radios on the possibility of a protest blockade on the highway from Alberta into the NWT. At this point, these are rumours only and there is no indication on social or mainstream media that anyone is planning anything.
 - Should this occur it would have serious impacts to NWT as diverting to another crossing would add significant time and delay.
 - We have looped in our respective ADMs to remain connected and have flagged this to JSG who will raise with the RCMP.
- The Peace Region Operation Manager and the local MCI are aware of the potential situation.

North Central Region and Fort McMurray Region

February 12:

No activity reported.

February 11:

- At 15:38 the region reported an unconfirmed possible convoy leaving St. Paul at 10:00, February 12. Convoy would start at Highway 881 and proceed to Highway 45 and end in Two Hills. Potential for traffic coming into St. Paul along Highway 29 and Highway 41 as well.
- *At 12:15 hrs, February 11, JSG communicated that a slow-rolling convoy is planned for Bonnyville, Boyle, Plamondon, Cold Lake, Lloydminster, Vermillion, Elk River, Waskatenaw, Smoky Lake, and Vilna on February 12.*
- *At 12:30 hrs, February 8, JSG communicated social media reports of a local support convoy being planned for February 12 in Fort McMurray. Intent to marshal at 11:00 hrs for 12:00 hrs departure. Posting includes request for pedestrians to pack the courthouse and provincial building.*
- *At 12:30 hrs, February 8, JSG communicated social media reports of a Fort McMurray Supply Convoy 2022 to Ottawa' intending to depart Fort McMurray for Ottawa on February 15. Tentative Route Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Saskatoon, onwards to Ottawa through Sudbury Ontario.*
- *On February 7, JSG has reported some mention of another event next week that will depart Fort McMurray to conduct a "slow-roll" through Plamondon, Lac La Biche, Grassland, Athabasca, Red Water, Slave Lake, and Westlock (unconfirmed).*

Activity Reports from Across the Province:

Southern Region

February 12:

See Milk River update on page 1.

Central Region

February 12:

No activity reported.

North Central Region and Fort McMurray Region

February 12:

No activity reported.

Peace Region

February 12:

No activity reported.